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# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## A little less conversation

New survey says candidates' religion talk doesn't win points

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Presidential candidates who discuss their faith on the campaign trail may not be helping their bid for the nomination, according to a LifeWay Research survey of American adults.

The online survey from the research arm of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville asked, "When a candidate running for office regularly expresses religious conviction or activity, how does that impact your vote?"

According to the survey, only one in six Americans (16%) are more likely to vote for a candidate who regularly shares his religious beliefs.

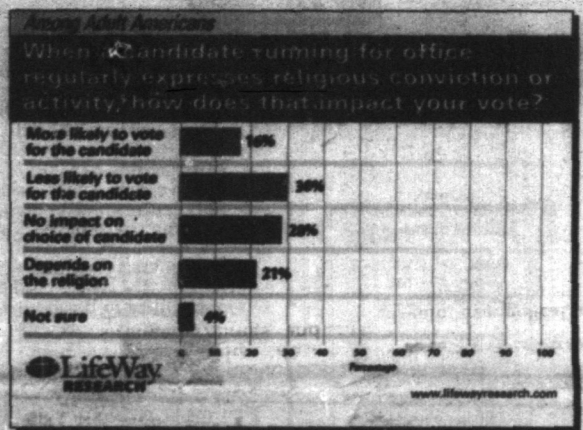
While 30% indicate they would be less likely to vote for a candidate expressing religious activity, 28% say it would have no impact on their choice of candidate. Twenty-one percent of Americans say it would

depend on the candidate's religion.

According to age distinctions, the survey revealed younger Americans ages 18-29 (24%) and ages 30-49 (24%) are more likely to select "depends on the religion" of the candidate. Those age 65 and over are the most likely (37%) to say a candidate's expression of religious conviction or activity would have no impact on their choice of candidate.

"Millennials are not known for active involvement in matters and practices of faith," said Scott McConnell, director of LifeWay Research. "Yet this survey reveals that young adults do have stronger feelings and that they are more likely to vote differently depending on which religious convictions a candidate expresses."

Americans who consider themselves to be a born-



again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christian are more likely (28% versus 11%) to select "more likely to vote for the candidate" expressing religious conviction compared to Americans who do not share their religious beliefs. Similarly, these Christians are more likely to select "depends on the religion" compared to those who do not identify with these beliefs (36% versus 20%).

Americans who never attend a place of worship are most likely (67%) to say a candidate's expression of religious conviction or activity would make them "less likely to vote for a candidate." Only three percent would be more likely to vote for the candidate.

"Different people get a different picture in their mind when a political candidate shares or shows their religious convictions," McConnell said. "While some Americans warm up to this, many don't see it as a positive."

African Americans are most likely to be put off by a candidate's religious expression — just two percent say they would be "more likely to vote for the candidate." Hispanic Americans (41%) and African Americans (43%) indicate they would be less

### Methodology

The survey, conducted Sept. 23-26, 2011, sampled an online panel representing the adult population of the United States. Responses were weighted by region, party, age, race, religion, gender, and education to reflect the population. The completed sample of 2,144 surveys provides a 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed plus or minus 2.2%. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

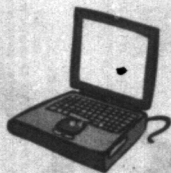
## Legislators at Baptist Building



David Hamilton (at microphone), president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and pastor of West Heights Church, in Pontotoc, welcomes Mississippi lawmakers to the 2012 Legislative Prayer Breakfast on Jan. 4 in the Skyroom of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) building in downtown Jackson. The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, which sponsors the annual event, reported a spike in attendance in comparison to previous years. MBCB Executive Director Jim Futral keyed the gathering, and the entertainer known as Earl from Pearl provided music. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

likely to vote for a candidate expressing religious conviction or activity.

"In fact, two-thirds of Americans who never attend a place of worship appear to flee from candidates who repeatedly put their religion in front of them and four in 10 Hispanic and African American adults take it as a cue that the candidate is not for them," McConnell said.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H. Perkins Jr.**  
Editor

EDITOR  
William H. Perkins Jr.  
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Tony Martin  
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN  
Rebekah Ray  
ray@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING  
Emily Jones  
ejones@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER  
Brenda Quattlebaum  
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS  
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:  
Archie Herrin, Columbia  
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E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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# Alert and Prepared

The Baptist Record has devoted a large amount of space over the past several weeks to a story that is happening in a far-away place and may seem somewhat irrelevant to us in Mississippi. However, nowhere is far away in our modern world, and the story may indeed be relevant to us before we know it.

Events have a sneaky way of surprising us like that, especially those of us who live comfortable spiritual lives down here in the proverbial Buckle of the Bible Belt.

In December of last year, the New York City Department of Education told about 60 churches that meet in city public school facilities that they have until Feb. 12 to find alternative meeting spaces. Because schools offer nearly ideal floor space for church needs — large auditoriums, well-equipped classrooms, and adequate rest rooms — the announcement came as a real blow to churches meeting in the schools.

Some of the affected churches are Southern Baptist, and many are church plants just struggling to get by financially. Most of the churches pay \$1,000-\$2,000 monthly to rent the school space, which is a considerably lower amount than renting private meeting space in the New York City area. A recent article in the New York Times estimated the number of churches affected by the city's order to vacate school facilities to be about 160.

The setting of the Feb. 12 deadline for eviction was the conclusion of a 16-year legal battle that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Late last year, the court declined to take up the case and New York City school officials began notifying churches to leave by the mid-February date.

"We view this as a victory for the city's schoolchildren and their families," Jane Gordon, the senior counsel of the New York City Law Department, told The New York Times in a statement. She added that the city's education department "was quite properly concerned about having any school in this diverse city identified with one particular religious belief or practice."

No so fast, said opponents of the city's plan to kick the churches out.

"What's odd about this is that of the top 50 school districts in the nation, New York City is the only school district that has a policy banning worship services. It does not show respect for religious liberty," said Jordan Lorence, senior counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund and lead attorney for the Bronx Household of Faith, the church that initiated the court case that was denied a hearing by the U.S. Supreme Court.

"A lot of churches are going to be homeless," George Russ, executive director of the New York Metropolitan Baptist Association, told Baptist Press. He said about seven of the 220 Southern Baptist churches in the city will be impacted by the decision, but as it turns out the school evictions are not the only problem for churches in the Big Apple.

The city has also notified four churches renting space in public community centers that their leases are now considered invalid. A city spokesperson denied any connection to the school evictions (of course).

There have been protests of the city's decisions and many arrests, including one pastor about to be evicted who also serves as a New York City councilman.

New York's state legislature is now involved, with bills filed that would permit churches to use the schools.

The city is standing firm in its decision to ban the churches, however.

The caution from all this mess that should be taken by Mississippi Baptists is that controversies like this one may start in some far-flung corner of the country, but they have a way of picking up momentum as they sweep across the nation on the way to grudging acceptance.

The battle over homosexual rights and same sex marriage come to mind.

In the blink of an eye, Christians in Mississippi could be facing bureaucratic orders and court rulings that would have the potential to devastate the planting of churches in Mississippi. That's an especially important consideration when one counts Mississippi Baptist outreach efforts that involve the use of public school facilities for those church plants.

The Bible admonishes us to always be alert to, and prepared for, the machinations of the evil one as he seeks to devour and destroy each one of us. Who can doubt that he is at work today across America and the world?

We have been warned. We'd best be ready.

First of a two-part series

I've made up my mind. I'm giving up on the Great Commission Resurgence (GCR) in the Southern Baptist Convention.

It's not that I've been opposed to the concept of a GCR. In fact, I enthusiastically voted in favor of forming the GCR Task Force at the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in 2009. I strongly supported the task force recommendations the following year.

Now, though, I'm giving up. Here's why:

- We're seeing every day that we cannot create a Great Commission Resurgence. We can cast a vote to form task forces, but whether God visits us with renewal is not determined by Baptist democracy.

- We can affirm recommendations for change, yet not consider that only God can transform apathetic hearts that led us to stagnation in the first place.

- We can, it appears, significantly increase our discussions about the Great Commission even while our baptism and membership trends hardly reflect God's blessing.

We simply cannot generate the resurgence that we need, so it is time to give up.

My motivation is a fear that Southern Baptists who prayed for a Great Commission task force three years ago, and I am one of those Baptists, are now praying too little for God to send us a heart-wrenching, world-

## GUEST OPINION:



### I'm giving up on Resurgence

By Chuck Lawless  
International Mission Board  
Richmond, Va.

reaching, devil-defeating Great Commission revival.

Unless I am misreading Southern Baptists, we who passionately joined Chairman Ronnie Floyd in praying for the GCR Task Force settled into prayer mediocrity once the task force recommendations were adopted. Some continued to pray as their state conventions tackled the same Great Commission issues, but I suspect that praying, too, has since diminished.

That happens when a denomination is generally more focused on human effort than divine blessing, more on corrected structures than broken hearts, more on programs than prayer. That happens when your Christian life is more about trying hard than giving up.

At the same time, more than 3,600 unengaged people groups in the world show us that our efforts have not yet dislodged the prince of darkness. Millions of lost people in North America

are constant, face-to-face reminders that we are doing church without threatening the enemy's kingdom.

We are an army that prayerfully voted to go to war and then returned to our own strength to fight the battle.

Too few are the church leaders who would cry with the great English preacher Charles Spurgeon: *Oh! men and brethren, what would this heart feel if I could but believe that there were some among you who would go home and pray for a revival of religion — men whose faith is large enough, and their love fiery enough to lead them from this moment to exercise unceasing intercessions that God would appear among us and do wondrous things here.*

Here, our SBC leaders who have called us to pray this month are right on target (<http://www.namb.net/sbc-calltoprayer/>). While critics might argue that this is just another programmatic

approach, it is surely much more than that.

It is a call to repent of our prayerlessness which is, at its core, nothing less than idolatry of the self. It is an admission that the tasks assigned to us are daunting — impossible, in fact. Our leaders know there will be no Great Commitment Resurgence unless the God who gave us the Great Commission also grants us the resurgence.

A call to prayer is, in fact, an admission of powerlessness. We can only wave the white flag of surrender in this task called the Great Commission. Not one of our 16 million Southern Baptists can penetrate the darkness in his own power. No church can move heaven without first longing for the God of heaven. No denomination will ever be large enough to make hell shake simply because of its numbers.

The God of the Scriptures seeks a humble, desperate, repentant people to do the Great Commission. We get there not by growing strong, but by being weak and, in a strange but biblical twist, we will have no Great Commission victory unless we give up first. That is, unless we surrender to God and seek his face in prayer.

Lawless is vice president of global theological advance for the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Richmond, Va. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.



# Christians in the crosshairs in Kashmir

## Muslim persecution flares against believers in India

NEW DELHI, India (BP and local reports) — Christian workers are fleeing India's Kashmir Valley after a rump sharia (Islamic law) court rendered a guilty verdict against three Christian leaders and issued a fatwa against Christian schools in mid-December, according to a Jan. 20 Compass Direct News report.

In addition, a door-to-door campaign reportedly has been launched to bring converts in the area back to Islam, according to Compass.

The court, which has no legal authority, issued guilty rulings of "luring the valley Muslims to Christianity" against pastor Chander Mani Khanna of All Saints Church in Srinagar in northern India's Jammu and Kashmir state, Dutch Catholic missionary Jim Borst, and Christian worker Gayoor Messah. The Times of India daily newspaper reported.

None of them are in custody, however, since the three had already left the region apparently due to rising tensions.

The sharia court, headed by Kashmir Grand Mufti Bashir-ud-din Ahmad, also directed the state government to take over the management of all Christian schools in the region. The Times added in its Dec. 19 report.

Encyclopedia Britannica defines a mufti as, "an Islamic legal authority who gives a formal legal opinion (fatwa) in answer to an inquiry by a private individual or judge."

"I fled with my wife and children, as I was not feeling safe in Srinagar," a Christian worker from Kashmir told Compass on condition of anonymity. "A group of Muslims visited my house twice, threatening my parents with a social boycott if they failed to produce me."

The source said he and some of his friends left Srinagar — one of the largest cities in India not to have a Hindu majority — a few days before the sharia court ordered the three Christian workers to leave Kashmir Valley, located in the Muslim-majority region of the state.

Another source told Compass that some men had visited his family and those of his friends in Srinagar asking for their whereabouts.

"They had the names of all my local Christian friends when they came to my parents' house, and they asked for the names of more

Christians in the area," the source recounted. "Muslim men are going to every believer's home and asking their families to ensure that their children return to Islam."

"They are using Islamic scriptures to persuade the families, warning that if their members do not reconvert their households will face ostracism."

The source added that those who have fled may not be able to return to their homes for at least a year. "We have our family with children — where should we send our kids to school?" he said. "Where should we stay? We don't have any answers."

The men who are visiting Christians' homes are sent from the many committees that the sharia court has formed to prevent conversions, the source said. The mufti who rendered the verdicts could not be contacted for comment.

Separately, well-known Muslim clergyman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has launched a website, [www.tahafuzeiman.org](http://www.tahafuzeiman.org), titled, Council for Protection of Faith, for a committee formed in November 2011, "after numerous cases of apostasy came into light" and "to thwart nefarious designs of pervasive forces and the deep-rooted conspiracy of making youth apostate and defectors by giving them concessions and benefits secretly."

Mufti deputy Nasir-ul-Islam reportedly said that an investigation against Parvez Samuel Kaul, principal of a local Christian missionary school, is underway.

The court ordered all Christian schools to teach Islam and other faiths. "Given the Muslim majority character of the valley, the Muslim students should be taught Islam, and daily prayer written by Syed Muhammad Iqbal should also be sung in the morning prayers," Nasir-ul-Islam told The Times of India.

Iqbal, a poet and philosopher who died in 1938, is considered in Pakistan and India to be one of the most prominent Islamic philosophers of the modern era.

Muslim leaders began to rally against Christians after a video posted on YouTube last October showed Muslim youth being baptized at the All Saints Church. Soon thereafter, the sharia court summoned Khanna to explain why Muslim youth were converted and whether they were offered money.

State police arrested Khanna on Nov. 19 on charges of hurting religious sentiments of Muslims by converting their youth. He was released on bail Dec. 1. The court later summoned Borst, but he asked the mufti to meet him at his church site.

The mufti declined. The court found Christian worker Messah guilty because he was also seen with Khanna in the video.

The All India Christian Council warned that the sharia court's verdict could encourage extremist elements to indulge in violence. "The church does not accept as genuine any conversion brought about by fraud or force," John Dayal, the group's secretary general, said in a statement.

Dayal pointed out that a fact-finding team that went to Srinagar late last year found no evidence of force or fraud in baptisms. "Each baptism has been proven to be voluntary," he said.

There are only about 400 Christians in the Kashmir region, with 300 of them living in Srinagar, according to the fact-finding team.

The council also said the Christian community does not accept the jurisdiction of the sharia courts anywhere in India.

The sharia court was careful in its verdict, one of the area sources observed, noting that the three who were ordered to leave are not permanent residents of Kashmir.

The source also questioned the fatwa against Christian schools. "The court issued a fatwa against Christian schools because some business-minded Muslims want greater control over these schools, which are known for

providing quality education," he said.

Local residents saw an element of politics behind the tensions. The fact-finding team, which visited Kashmir from Nov. 29 to Dec. 2, learned from local people that

some extremist groups and other vested interests had been seeking to use the issue of conversion in their confrontation with the state government, political parties and moderate Islamic groups.

They were "looking to score political points against each other, and any excuse was good enough to foment trouble," one resident said. The state government apparently sided with the extremists to preempt any unrest, local residents told the fact-finding team.

While most Muslims in Kashmir are peaceful adherents of Sufi Islam, some are influenced by Wahhabism extremism.

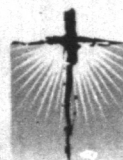
Kashmir, located in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent, has been disputed territory for Pakistan and India since the British partitioned the area and withdrew in 1947. It has served as a flashpoint between Pakistan and India — two nuclear powers — leading to a number of full-scale military conflicts and the frequent shelling of each other's positions.

In addition, a 1962 Chinese military incursion into the Indian area of Kashmir blurred the border between those two countries and has never been resolved.

**Editor's note:** Based in Santa Ana, Ca., Compass focuses on Christians worldwide who are persecuted for their faith. Used by permission. Additional information was added to this article by the staff of The Baptist Record.

"A group of Muslims visited my house twice, threatening my parents with a social boycott if they failed to produce me."

— a Christian worker in Kashmir



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND  
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## Looking back

10 years ago

Southern Baptists sent 1,155 new missionaries overseas during 2001, a "phenomenal 28% increase" over the previous high of 902 new workers two years earlier, according to Jerry Rankin, IMB president.

20 years ago

Charles and Becky Thomas, Southern Baptist missionaries for 17 years, resign from service in Romania to express their opposition to what they term a hostile takeover of the Foreign Mission Board by leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention.

30 years ago

The Baptist Record celebrates its 85th birthday. Authorized by the State Convention in 1876, the paper began publication early in 1877, with the first issues appearing Feb. 1.

# MEMORABLE MISTAKES

In all of the years that I have been preaching and the years that I have been in the pastorate, I have watched with amazement how people remember best not some great spiritual truth you pointed out to them in the Scripture and not some great worship moment where they met with Jesus but the things they remember best are your mistakes. Not long ago I ran into a fellow at a funeral. I was his pastor over 25 years ago. He came up to me grinning from ear to ear and could not wait to say, "Do you remember that time...." And I knew what he was going to say. I had not seen this guy for a quarter of a century, but here he comes with his big question. "Do you remember that time on Sunday morning...?" And what he went on to ask me about I certainly remembered, but he remembered more vividly. I was out in the congregation speaking to people, visiting, and talking. The choir came in, cranked up, and started singing a magnificent song. I waited until they were finished and I went charging up the steps that led to the platform. As I made my way up the steps, I tripped and dove head first across the platform to begin the Sunday morning worship. There I was pancake, facedown and the place just broke out in uproariously loud laughter. There was nowhere to hide and there was nothing to do but to try to gracefully get up from that ungraceful moment. When I walked to the pulpit presumably to welcome everybody and have prayer, they were still laughing. I stood there for a moment and then I quietly said, "The Scripture says, 'If your brother stumbles help him up.' It does not say just sit there and laugh at him." Well then they laughed again.

And so at this funeral when I saw the brother all he wanted to remind me of was an event long ago where I had made a big, stumbling blunder. I asked him if he remembered anything that I preached about. I asked if he remembered any of my sermons or any particular special word that the Lord spoke to his heart in the years that I was his pastor. He said, "No, I really cannot think of anything." All that he could remember was me taking a big dive on Sunday morning in front of everybody. People remember your mistakes. The people who were there one Sunday night in the worship service will not forget that I was preaching about David committing adultery with Bathsheba. For those of you who are Bible students, you know that his adulterous

moment was with Bathsheba and that Belshazzar was actually a heathen king. I went on preaching for a while through the heads turning and the giggles going on wondering what in the world was happening. Finally, I had sense enough to stop and ask and was told and just as they were shocked, surprised, and humored so was I. Of course, I have made many more mistakes but not as significant as that one.

Now all of this is to say to you who read this article regularly, if you read last week's January 26 column in *The Baptist Record*, I made a huge mistake. For those of you who did not read the article, do not bother to go back and do it. For the many of you who did and for those of you who I have heard from I want to correct my error. The article was on showing appreciation for your pastor and it came at the end of January because I said, "February is Pastor Appreciation Month and so take the opportunity to let him know how much you appreciate him." The knowledgeable people of whom apparently I am not one know that Pastor Appreciation Month is October and not February.

Now the reason I got confused and promoted it in February is because I had read an article where someone was talking about February being National Heart Month. It is promoted by the American Heart Association and in this article they said you should stop and show appreciation and give thanks for the people who really mean a lot to you. One of the groups they mentioned was pastors. Well in the busyness of life I thought goodness here it is already Pastor Appreciation Month again and I ought to write an article expressing my appreciation as well as encouraging people in the churches to do so with their pastor. Hence last week's column was developed.

Now if I had known before all of that went to press you would not have seen it last week. But since it was published two or three things have happened that I just have to say thank you Lord for allowing that to happen even through my blunder. It is just a small thing but I suppose it is one

of those verifications of the great truth of God when Paul said, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28). For God took what I messed up and helped straighten up some things. Let me explain.

First of all I want you to know that I heard from a number of our pastors who are struggling with their leadership, sometimes their self-esteem, and sometimes the difficulty of serving in a church that may not be treating them with care or even respect. Some thanked me and others just asked me what do you do when rather than appreciating you they are trying to expel you. These are good men, godly men, and men whose hearts are turned toward God and filled with love for their people. Yet, there are people who are determined to create opposition to their leadership and their loving shepherding. I would say to you also that these are men who are strong. They are not just whining and it wasn't just small petty things but major issues that were affecting them. They were not being given honor as the Bible describes. I knew what they were talking about because I have been where they are.

A second thing that happened was this. My article caused a big stir in a number of our churches. It was not a

bad thing, but it was just that they wanted to get the correct information. Is it October or is it February? To some I responded and said, "Well, just do it both months!" To some I said, "Well, this is the Mississippi time for showing appreciation." For others I inquired only to find out that they do not do anything in October and I said, "Well, February is your opportunity to catch up. Or if you do not want to do that, just cut this article out, re-date it, and express your appreciation to your pastor in October 2012." One person who I talked with said, "We do not ever do that and we did not do it in October, but I thought your article was wrong in the time being February." I said, "Well what difference does it really make if you do not do it in October or in February?" He just kind of threw his hands up and said, "Well really none!" I said, "You got it, but it would be good if you did something." He said, "We don't want to set a precedent." I said, "What would that precedent be?" He replied, "Well if we do something nice for the pastor, he may expect it every year. Or what if we do it for him and the next pastor comes and he expects it and we do not like him?" Folks, expressing appreciation in the things of God and for the leaders among God's people is always right to do and always a good precedent to set. It is heart month. It is love month. It is Valentine's Day month. Expressing your love to everyone and in this case to the leader in your church is always a good thing and always at a premium in the sight of God.

The author can be contacted at [jfutral@mbcb.org](mailto:jfutral@mbcb.org).



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## Presidential Search

The Board of Trustees of Hannibal-LaGrange University is in search of candidates for the office of President who have the knowledge and experience to lead the University into the future. Dr. Woodrow Burt has announced his retirement effective in the summer of 2012. A candidate must be an active member of a Southern Baptist church with appropriate academic credentials and professional experience to lead this great institution to grow and achieve. Hannibal-LaGrange is affiliated with the Missouri Baptist Convention. More detailed information about the University can be found at [www.hlg.edu](http://www.hlg.edu).

Please send nominations or applications along with a resume to: [HLGUPresidentialsearch@gmail.com](mailto:HLGUPresidentialsearch@gmail.com)

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JOEU NLA: TXNLLA

Clue: Q = C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John 10: Twenty-nine



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. The sewing club of North Long Beach Church, Long Beach, recently held a dedication luncheon, during which 216 little girl dresses were dedicated along with 175 pairs of undergarments. The dresses were made for the children of Nicaragua as a mission project and were delivered to the country by pastor of Wesley Methodist Church David Newton. Shown are Bettye Buckley, Mary Alice Wall, Newton, Marilyn Bailey, and pastor Charles Bonner.



1. North Long Beach Church, Long Beach

2. Gracewood Church, Southaven, held a missions fair. Representing the Crossroads Sunday School class was Denise Summers, shown. Barbara Ash, WMU president.



2. Summers

3. Spring Creek Church, Philadelphia, will host Norman Geisler speaking on America's Christian Heritage, Feb. 26, 10 a.m. Geisler will also speak at the Ellis Theater on Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m., on *How Many Roads to Heaven?* Geisler has authored more than 70 books and is founder of the International Society of Christian Apologetics. Free.

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**PASTOR: VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH IN MATHISTON, MS IS SEEKING RESUMES FOR A PASTOR.** Mail to: Victory Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, P. O. Box 12, Mathiston, MS 39752.

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**GALILEE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, GLOSTER, MS, IS SEEKING A PASTOR.** Please send resume's to Galilee First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 118, Gloster, Ms., 39638. Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

**UNION HALL BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH DIRECTOR.** Resumes may be mailed to the church at: 1242 Nola Road N. E., Brookhaven, MS 39601. Attention: Youth Director Search Committee.

## Jim Newton, Baptist journalist, dies at 75

JACKSON, Miss. (BP) — Jim Newton, 75, of Clinton, longtime Southern Baptist journalist and former director of news and information for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board), died from complications of leukemia Jan. 16 at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.

He was born into a Kingsville, Texas, family who were editors of weekly newspapers in south Texas. In addition to working at the Home Mission Board, he held numerous positions in Baptist journalism, beginning as press representative for the Baptist General Convention of Texas; Baptist Press assistant director; and editor of World Mission Journal of the former SBC Brotherhood Commission. He retired as the Home Mission Board's director of public relations in 1992.

After his 1992 retirement from the mission board, Newton accepted a communications position with the U.S.-based office of World Vision International in California. After retiring from World Vision, he and his wife Pat moved to Clinton to be near their two daughters and five grandchildren.

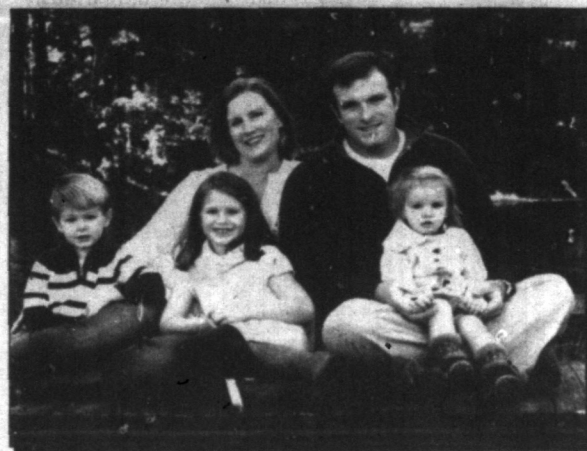
Newton worked extensively as a communications consultant with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA); the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelism, a ministry of the BGEA; and World Vision.

Newton won more than 30 awards from the Baptist Public Relations Association (now Baptist Communicators) and the Religious Public Relations Council. He was a three-time recipient of BPRA's top journalism honor, the Frank M. Burkhalter Award.

He was a member of Trace Ridge Church in Ridgeland.

## STAFF CHANGES

1. Slayden Church, Marshall Association, has called James Russell Fair as senior pastor. Shown is the Fair family: Cole, Annsleigh, Courtney, Fair, and Ella Kathryn. He began service Jan. 9.



1. The Fairs

## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Longview Church, Starkville:** revival, Feb. 5-8; Sun., 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Jim Futral; Mon., 7 p.m.; Clarence Cooper, Jr.; Tues., 7 p.m.; Truman Scarborough; Wed., 7 p.m.; Dan Robertson; Tom Jenkins, music; Larry Yarber, pastor.

2. **Lawrence Church, Lawrence:** 100th anniversary, Feb. 12; services,

10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Southern Heritage, April Ezell, and Hosanna, music.

3. **Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa:** revival, Feb. 19-22; Sun., 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 11:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mickey Dalrymple, speaker; Wayne Baggett, music.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Hebron Church, Smithdale



2. Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association



3. Ingram



4. Everett and Porter ordination

1. The sanctuary choir of Hebron Church, Smithdale, presented its Christmas cantata, O Come, Dec. 18. Shown are the participants.

2. The children of Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association, presented For the Glory of the King Dec. 18. Kim Hargett and Heather Ledbetter, directors; Robert E. Walker, pastor. Shown are the participants.

3. Jordan Ingram, First Church, Vicksburg, spoke at the church Jan. 4 on his summer missionary work in the Philippines. He is in his first year of medical school at University Medical Center and this was his third summer to minister in the Philippines. Shown is Ingram with a fellow worker.

4. Pearlhaven Church, Brookhaven, held an ordination service for Benjamin Everett and Brooks Porter Jan. 22. Shown are Randy Lewman, Stephanie Everett, Everett, Porter, and Anthony Yarborough.

5. Grace Church, Philadelphia, licensed Bud Waddell to the gospel ministry. Shown are pastor Chester Carlisle, Waddell, and Shirley Waddell.

6. The youth of Spring Creek Church, Philadelphia, participated in the church's 2011 Christmas program on Dec. 11. Shown are the youth.

7. Joe Young, retired public school teacher, convention consultant and bivocational strategist, was a contributing writer to the newly released missiological book, Rural Church Planting: A Missional Footprint, published by the North American Mission Board. George W. Garner, compiler and lead author.



5. Waddell licensing



6. Spring Creek Church, Philadelphia



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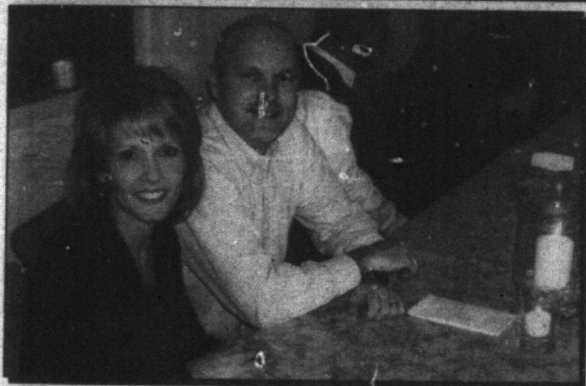
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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. The Floyds

1. Jeff Floyd, pastor of Calvary Church, Oak Grove, was honored with a reception Jan. 15 honoring his 10th anniversary. Shown are

Floyd and his wife, Temple.

2. First Church, Clinton, will honor long-time minister of music, Bill

Bacon, with a retirement celebration Feb. 11 and 12. The Saturday night event will honor Bacon's 36 years as minister of music. The public is invited to the ceremony beginning at 6 p.m. Sunday's service at 9:30 a.m. will also honor Bacon and family.

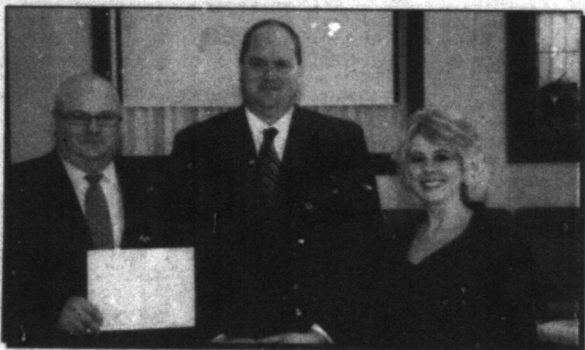
3. Holly Springs Church, Foxworth, received a donation of a granite Ten Commandments stone in memory of Mary Brister Bracey (Lark) by her six children: Bob, Daphne, Smitty, Charlott, Sandra, and Betty (shown).



5. Moree ordination

4. First Church, Belzoni, will host an appreciation reception for Nellie Jo Lilly Feb. 12. She has been a musician at the church since 1968 and has been music director since 1986. Reception is from 4 until 5:30 p.m.

5. Improve Church, Columbia, ordained Gene Moree as deacon Jan. 15. Shown are pastor Darel Daniels, Moree, and Darlene Moree.



6. Diffey ordination

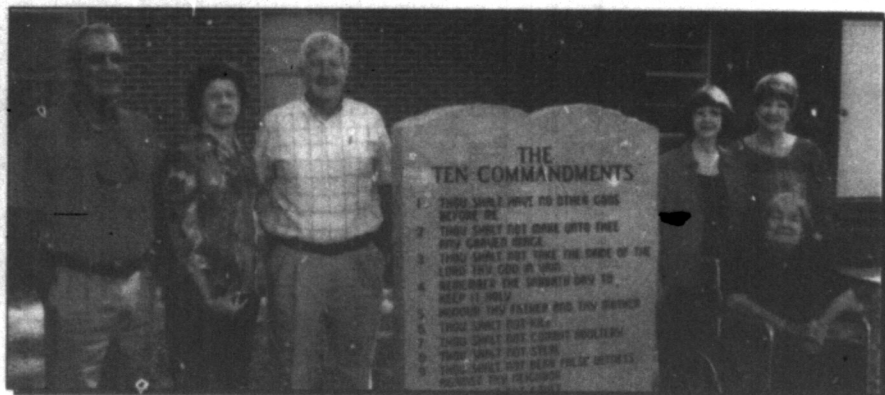
6. Main Street Church, Goodman, ordained Steve Diffey as deacon Dec. 11. Shown are pastor Kelly Mitchell, Diffey, and Stephanie Diffey.

7. Union Church, Shannon, celebrated a note burning paying off their new sanctuary Jan. 1. Shown are pastor Billy Langley, Dennis Taylor, Pete Simmons, and Scooty Collins.



7. Union Church, Shannon

8. Hurricane Creek Church, Sandy Hook, exceeded their Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal of \$4500 by contributing \$7188.



3. Holly Springs Church, Foxworth

Friday, March 2nd

at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 3rd

at 6:30 p.m.



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## COLLEGE NEWS

1. A 1979 Mississippi College graduate, Texas Wesleyan University President Fred Slabach was inaugurated on the Fort Worth campus January 27th. The event featured former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright as the keynote speaker. Albright served as the 64th Secretary of State from 1997 to 2001 and now is president of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation.



1. Slabach

2. Lizzie Sherard, left, of Southaven and Will Hockings of Olive Branch will be honored in February by the Mississippi Legislature as Blue Mountain College's HEADWAE student and teacher for the 2011-12 academic year. HEADWAE - Higher Education Appreciation Day/Working for Academic Excellence - was established by the Mississippi Legislature in 1988 and recognizes students and faculty members from each of the state's 36 public and private colleges and universities.



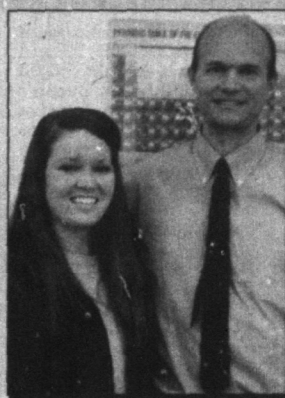
3. Carr and Johnson

3. Mississippi College music professor Kristen Johnson made her singing debut at New York City's famed Lincoln Center on January 15. The MC voice instructor was joined on stage by MC graduate Jay Carr, a student at the Brooklyn (N.Y.) Conservatory of Music and the Mississippi College Singers under the baton of Music Department Chairman James Meaders. Shown are Carr and Johnson.

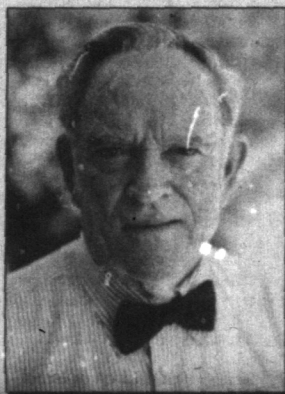
university's Art Department. He is set to receive the award at a June 9 banquet at the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson.

4. Internationally celebrated sculptor Sam Gore will receive a lifetime achievement award from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters. It's the latest recognition for the 85-year-old Mississippi College graduate and former chairman of the

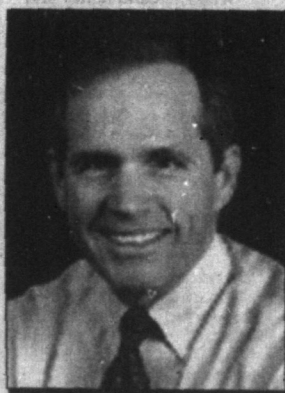
5. The pastor of Legacy Church in Plano, Tex., Gene Wilkes will be the guest speaker at the Evangelism Lectures at Mississippi College February 6-7. Wilkes has authored numerous books, including Jesus on Leadership in 1996 and Evangelism Where You Live, which he co-authored with Steve Pate in 2008. The Evangelism Lecture on February 6 begins at 7 p.m. in Provine Chapel and the public is invited. For more information on MC's



2. Sherard



4. Gore



5. Wilkes

Evangelism Lectures, contact Burn Page at (601) 925-3292 or Linda Street at (601) 925-3218.

## OBITUARY

1. Calvin C. Inman, 86, retired pastor, died Dec. 30, 2011 in Athens, Ala. He was born in Water Valley. He served in World War II as a flight engineer, top turret gunner on B-52 bombers, and was a staff sergeant. He received a bachelor of arts from Mississippi College and a master of divinity from New Orleans Seminary. He pastored Simmons Memorial Mission, Flora; Friendship Church, Natchez; Walnut Church, Vance; Evergreen

Church, Louisville; West Marks Church, Marks; East Highland Church, Hartselle, Ala.; and Sardis Springs Church, Athens, Ala. He served on the Alabama State Board of Missions and was a volunteer on mission trips to Columbia, South America, and Zambia, Africa. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Lucile Crouch Inman, formerly of Batesville; son, Stephen Inman, Athens, Ala., and a sister, Nalda Oakes, Clarksdale.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. Mt. Olive Church, Baldwyn, ordained Rony Heavener as deacon Aug. 2011. David Haynes, pastor.



1. Heavener ordination

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## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

### Center of Everything

Colossians 1:9-23

#### Burn Page

This passage highlights the centrality of Christ. He is creator, sustainer, and sustainer of all creation. In this context, Paul prayed for the Colossian Christians because they were being influenced by false teaching who propagated false teaching. Scholars differ as to what the false teaching was. While full-blown Gnostic [pronounced "gnostic," from the Greek word *gnosis*—again the "g" is silent—meaning "knowledge"] heresy did not develop until the 2nd century, an incipient (or early) form of it or some similar teaching was threatening the Colossian congregation. According to this teaching salvation was gained through knowledge rather than by grace through faith. This dualistic teaching also viewed the spirit realm as good and all matter as

evil. Consequently, God who is "spirit" (and therefore, "good") would have nothing to do with a human body which is matter and considered to be "evil." Obviously this doctrine negated the Christian doctrine of the Incarnation and denied the effect of Christ's physical death on the cross—redemption.

So Paul prayed that they might be "filled with the knowledge of his will." Paul wanted his readers to "be filled" ("under the control of") the knowledge of God's will. He wanted his readers not to have a knowledge of some false mystery religion but to have the knowledge of God's will that is discerned from knowing God himself.

Paul wanted God's will to be done in their lives so they would live ("walk") in a manner that was "worthy of the Lord" which



Page

meant to live in a manner that was "appropriate." Such a life was characterized by (1) "bearing fruit in every good work" which referred to the reproductive aspect of the Christian's calling and (2) such a life of service would gain an increase in the knowledge of God. The good news was that the one

who sought to live a life in such a worthy manner was not powerless to do so. Paul prayed for each believer to be "strengthened with all power according to his glorious might." That strength came from "endurance" and "patience." Endurance is "the capacity to continue to bear up under difficult circumstances," and patience is "a state of emotional calm in the face of provocation or misfortune and without complaining or irritation" (Louw-Nida). Neither circumstance nor people are to upset the person who walks in the will of God (Melick).

In Col. 1:15-20 Paul described Christ as the "image of the invisible God." The word "image"

(*eikon*), could convey the nuance of "representation" (like the image of Caesar on a coin) or it could convey the nuance of "manifestation." Here the second seems to be what Paul is meaning—that the symbol or image brought with it the actual presence of the object. In other words, the invisible God becomes visible ("manifested") in Christ. Paul wanted his readers to know that the person of Christ was truly and fully God and the work of Christ was that of reconciliation—to set right that which has gone wrong. All of creation will be reconciled through Christ either voluntarily (by willing submission to Jesus which brings the blessings of salvation), or involuntarily (being conquered by his power). One way or the other, willingly or unwilling, all things will be reconciled by and through Christ.

Through Christ's death in a physical body (contrary to insipient Gnostic teaching) on the cross, he has rescued believers from Satan's "dominion of darkness" and "brought us into the kingdom of his Son" (the kingdom of light). God took the ini-

tiative in bringing Christians into the realm of his presence by qualifying (enabling) them to be a part of his kingdom. God qualifies us by giving to us what we need and that is righteousness (a right standing with him). Since he declares believers to be righteous by his grace, he alone qualifies a person for entrance into the kingdom. As God promised a physical inheritance to Israel, he promises believers a spiritual inheritance, the redemption that is in Christ. We have been saved or rescued (a term that comes from warfare terminology) from Satan's kingdom of darkness; we have been saved to Christ's kingdom of light; and we have been saved for the purpose of walking/living a life that is worthy (appropriate) of the Lord who has rescued us and pleases him in every way. In Christ, the past is blotted out and forgiven, the present is cleansed and empowered, and the future is delivered from the fear of failure.

Page is chair of the Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy at Mississippi College and a member of First Church, Clinton.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Be Different

Deuteronomy 14:1-2, 9-11, 19-21, 22-23; 15:7-11

By Malleen Moore

How are we known? How will we be remembered? What kind of a life style do we lead? On any given day, our answer to similar questions may vary. As of this writing, a coach is being recognized for leading his teams in winning 500 basketball games. Wow! He gave credit to the young men whom he had coached. Who do we give credit for who we are and how we are known? The children of Israel had been following Moses' leadership for approximately 40 years. Now Moses addresses his followers on how they were to live as God's holy people in a right relationship with Him upon entering Canaan.

#### Maintain a Godly Worldview

Deuteronomy 14:1-2  
Moses had seen the Israelites demonstrate amazing leadership and strength through the desert

and in conquering the lands on the east side of the Jordan. However, he had also seen traits of rebellion and selfish desires, as well. Issuing a reminder of who the people in this nation of Israel were, God gave directions on maintaining their appearance as a nation proud of its heritage in being obedient to its God. They were to look like and act like God's people. He had chosen them to be His very "own possession out of all the people on the face of the earth" (Deuteronomy 14:2, HCSB). There were two specific warnings to the Israelites—refrain from cutting the body and refrain from shaving a bald place in their hair. These were common customs to be seen in the Canaanite people. Maintaining a Godly worldview meant refusing to follow the Canaanite culture—be different—revealing the holy character of their holy God.



Moore

They would refuse to adopt pagan attitudes, actions and rituals.

#### Choose a Clean Lifestyle

##### Deuteronomy 14:9-11, 19-21

The Children of Israel had been looking forward to the land flowing with milk and honey and its abundant food supply.

Now God gave instructions on appropriate foods so as to portray a clean lifestyle. The scripture groups approved fish with the fins and scales. Clean birds are approved with an extensive list of birds banned and labeled unclean. Mammals were approved with split cloven hooves and ones that chewed their cud. The prohibition of a young goat boiled in its mother's milk was possible related to a similar practice of the Canaanites. Keeping the dietary guidelines meant healthy habits as well as living holy according to their God.

#### Exhibit Consistent Stewardship

##### Deuteronomy 14:22-23

The Children of Israel were

learning to make wise choices in a healthy lifestyle as well as learning about stewardship. Neither of these lessons were necessary before entering Canaan as manna was their diet and they were dependent upon God for everything. With crossing into Canaan, all that would change. They would be responsible for their own food and would be producing a crop as well as herds of livestock. God expected a tithe to be brought before the Lord. Moses made it very plain of God's expectation—"Each year you are to set aside a tenth of all the produce grown in your fields" (Deuteronomy 14:22, HCSB). The first born of the livestock and flocks were to be presented to the Lord, as well. The credit for the entire harvest and all the increase in the livestock belonged to God. The command to tithe gave recognition of the blessings of God showing loyalty and love acknowledging the nearness of their God.

#### Keep a Generous Heart

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

Giving with joy and

thanksgiving showed the attitude of compassion and love. God's command was to be giving towards fellow Israelites in need just as it was to give to the Lord. It was God's desire to show brotherly love towards each other without being reluctant. Moses spoke openly about the poor in the midst of the land. He gave two words of caution—avoid being hardhearted and tightfisted. The opposite of which is to "open your hand" and "freely loan enough for whatever the need" (Deuteronomy 15:8, HCSB). God knew there would always be poor people and the instruction was to care for them. He instituted a practice of debt forgiveness every seven years, warning against withholding from the poor nearing the seventh year. The poor would cry out to God finding his brother guilty. The Lord would bless those who care for the poor willingly in all they do.

Moore is a member of Macedonia Church, Petal.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.





## HONOR ROLL OF CHURCHES

Each January we evaluate the cash gifts received by The Baptist Children's Village during the previous twelve months. In this evaluation, it has become customary to list the Mississippi Baptist churches in descending order of total cash gifts. This does not include non-cash gift items or volunteer efforts that many churches contribute. This evaluation and analysis has become known as the "Honor Roll of Churches."

Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

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1	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Lake	\$141,150.00
2	Morrison Heights Baptist Church	Clinton	\$21,876.91
3	First Baptist Church	Water Valley	\$21,349.45
4	Immanuel Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$20,263.82
5	First Baptist Church	Batesville	\$17,406.00
6	Seminary Baptist Church	Seminary	\$17,354.03
7	Branch Baptist Church	Brandon	\$15,310.00
8	First Baptist Church	Madison	\$13,904.13
9	Bunker Hill Baptist Church	Columbia	\$13,785.64
10	First Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$12,333.31
11	Topisaw Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$12,300.00
12	First Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$12,075.82
13	First Baptist Church	Corinth	\$11,598.40
14	Fellowship Baptist Church	Meridian	\$11,316.09
15	Williamsville Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$10,975.03
16	Trinity First Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$10,955.44
17	Memorial Baptist Church	Richmond	\$10,630.29
18	East Philadelphia Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$9,153.65
19	Star Baptist Church	Star	\$8,924.59
20	First Baptist Church	Raymond	\$8,900.00
21	Trinity Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$8,767.19
22	First Baptist Church, Runnelstown	Philadelphia	\$8,590.36
23	First Baptist Church	Newton	\$8,391.67
24	Rienzi Baptist Church	Rienzi	\$8,368.60
25	Pine Forest Baptist Church	Collinsville	\$8,211.47
26	Murphy Creek Baptist Church	Louisville	\$8,150.25
27	Calvary Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$8,124.04
28	Gaston Baptist Church	Booneville	\$7,997.06
29	First Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$7,988.53
30	Calvary Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$7,940.06
31	First Baptist Church	Yazoo City	\$7,870.00
32	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$7,854.58
33	First Baptist Church	Hazlehurst	\$7,797.06
34	Spring Creek Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$7,692.51
35	First Baptist Church	Jackson	\$7,475.59
36	First Baptist Church	Clinton	\$7,466.35
37	First Baptist Church	Indianola	\$7,465.00
38	Yopaka Baptist Church	Jayess	\$7,337.21
39	First Baptist Church	Laurel	\$7,249.00
40	Parkway Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$7,203.42
41	Rolling Creek Baptist Church	Quitman	\$7,127.71
42	Sylvarena Baptist Church	Kaleigh	\$7,134.39
43	Indian Springs Baptist Church	Laurel	\$7,072.14
44	Crossview Baptist Church	Brandon	\$6,910.00
45	First Baptist Church, Lyman	Gulport	\$6,759.55
46	Leaf River Baptist Church	Collins	\$6,653.00
47	Hurley Baptist Church	Hurley	\$6,607.15
48	Branch Baptist Church	Morton	\$6,595.35
49	First Baptist Church	Nettleton	\$6,585.00
50	Walhall Baptist Church	Walhall	\$6,480.00
51	First Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$6,456.20
52	Liberty Baptist Church	Liberty	\$6,403.30
53	Boyna Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$6,375.00
54	Parkway Baptist Church	Clinton	\$6,305.00
55	Central Baptist Church	Mc Neill	\$6,304.36
56	First Baptist Church	Quitman	\$6,350.00
57	First Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$6,212.39
58	DeSoto Baptist Church	Shubuta	\$6,104.37
59	Bel Aire Baptist Church	Gulport	\$6,065.28
60	Monticello Baptist Church	Monticello	\$5,841.00
61	Broadmoor Baptist Church	Madison	\$5,830.00
62	Valden Baptist Church	Valden	\$5,805.82
63	Hurricane Creek Baptist Church	Sandy Hook	\$5,800.87
64	Meadow Grove Baptist Church	Brandon	\$5,741.87
65	Northminster Baptist Church	Jackson	\$5,649.15
66	Mount Zion Baptist Church-Tate	Independence	\$5,572.00
67	Valley Park Baptist Church	Valley Park	\$5,531.54
68	Springfield Baptist Church	Morton	\$5,410.00
69	Rock Hill Baptist Church	Brandon	\$5,284.47
70	First Baptist Church	Magee	\$5,269.00
71	Valley Grove Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$5,253.98
72	Thrasher Baptist Church	Booneville	\$5,220.98
73	New Sight Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$5,189.71
74	First Baptist Church	Sardis	\$5,134.27
75	First Baptist Church	Senatobia	\$5,050.00
76	First Baptist Church	Louisville	\$5,007.92
77	West Kemper Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$5,000.00
78	Stanton Baptist Church	Natchez	\$4,917.35
79	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Carthage	\$4,889.25
80	First Baptist Church	Natchez	\$4,840.00
81	Hollandale Baptist Church	Hollandale	\$4,805.00
82	Westwood Baptist Church	Meridian	\$4,797.77
83	First Baptist Church	Picayune	\$4,790.00
84	Faith Baptist Church	Meridian	\$4,729.09
85	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$4,614.44
86	Forest Baptist Church	Forest	\$4,572.50
87	Anchor Baptist Church	Water Valley	\$4,550.00
88	First Baptist Church	Abbeville	\$4,549.80
89	First Baptist Church	Greenville	\$4,471.47
90	Dry Creek Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$4,469.00
91	First Baptist Church	Lambert	\$4,453.71
92	Shiloh Baptist Church	Port Gibson	\$4,445.97
93	County Line Baptist Church	Union	\$4,376.79
94	Grays Creek Baptist Church	Hernando	\$4,347.10
95	First Baptist Church	Starkville	\$4,315.00
96	Old Silver Creek Baptist Church	Silver Creek	\$4,252.21
97	Ingomar Baptist Church	New Albany	\$4,243.59
98	North Winona Baptist Church	Winona	\$4,212.54
99	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Columbus	\$4,200.00
100	North Greenwood Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$4,190.20
101	Clarke-Venable Baptist Church	Decatur	\$4,189.89
102	First Baptist Church	Brandon	\$4,165.10
103	Dublin Baptist Church	Carson	\$4,090.90
104	Midway Baptist Church	Meridian	\$4,087.73
105	Church Road Baptist Church	Horn Lake	\$3,984.05
106	Newhebron Baptist Church	Newhebron	\$3,970.21
107	First Baptist Church	Belzoni	\$3,933.30
108	Neshoba County Baptist Church	Union	\$3,923.81
109	First Baptist Church	Union	\$3,896.58
110	Indianola	Indianola	\$3,861.59
111	Deer Creek Baptist Church	Rolling Fork	\$3,835.00
112	Rocky Point Baptist Church	Carthage	\$3,833.63
113	Liberty Baptist Church	New Albany	\$3,813.50
114	Meadville Baptist Church	Meadville	\$3,808.00
115	Carmelton Baptist Church	Carrollton	\$3,807.37
116	First Baptist Church	Collins	\$3,800.00
117	Indian Springs Baptist Church	Petal	\$3,767.00
118	Old Pearl Valley Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$3,750.00
119	First Baptist Church	Charlton	\$3,748.88
120	Smithville Baptist Church	Smithville	\$3,738.00
121	High Hill Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$3,728.10
122	Goodwater Baptist Church	Magee	\$3,693.27
123	Trinity Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$3,640.66
124	First Baptist Church	Booneville	\$3,617.90
125	Highland Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$3,616.66
126	Shiloh Baptist Church	Louisville	\$3,579.17
127	Bucatunna Baptist Church	Meridian	\$3,573.62
128	First Baptist Church	Foxworth	\$3,556.00
129	Parkway Baptist Church	Houston	\$3,545.34
130	Calvary Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$3,475.00
131	Unity Baptist Church	Harrisville	\$3,439.43
132	Salem Baptist Church	Golden	\$3,436.00
133	West End Baptist Church	West Point	\$3,412.92
134	Tishomingo Baptist Church	Tishomingo	\$3,410.00
135	Beacon Street Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$3,363.03
136	Fairview Baptist Church	Columbus	\$3,345.00
137	Wildwood Baptist Church	Clinton	\$3,328.60
138	Ephesus Baptist Church	Forest	\$3,328.11
139	Zion Hill Baptist Church	Blue Springs	\$3,289.18
140	Oakdale Baptist Church	Oak Vale	\$3,263.54
141	Pineview Baptist Church	Laurel	\$3,258.77
142	New Hope Baptist Church	Meridian	\$3,250.00
143	First Baptist Church	New Albany	\$3,249.34
144	First Baptist Church	Long Beach	\$3,249.11
145	X-Tended Missions Network	Hernando	\$3,242.42
146	First Baptist Church	Eupora	\$3,240.08
147	Hillcrest Baptist Church	Byram	\$3,222.00
148	First Baptist Church	Pascagoula	\$3,212.38
149	Liberty Baptist Church	De Kalb	\$3,206.50
150	Eastwood Baptist Church	Indianola	\$3,182.13
151	Chesterville Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$3,175.25
152	New Zion Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$3,142.78
153	Thenezzer Baptist Church	Bassfield	\$3,129.67
154	First Baptist Church	State Line	\$3,126.06
155	Trinity Baptist Church	Carthage	\$3,121.59
156	Ackerman Baptist Church	Ackerman	\$3,060.00
157	Harmony Baptist Church	Walnut	\$3,027.96
158	Tomnolen Baptist Church	Eupora	\$3,002.10
159	Corinth Baptist Church	Magee	\$3,000.00
160	Sand Hill Baptist Church	Ellisville	\$2,986.00
161	Phillis Baptist Church	Prentiss	\$2,978.00
162	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Meridian	\$2,942.32
163	Cairo Baptist Church	Ecu	\$2,939.91
164	First Baptist Church	Mathiston	\$2,901.42
165	Silver Springs Baptist Church	Oryka	\$2,900.00
166	Poplar Springs Baptist Church	Golden	\$2,890.50
167	Mount Moriah Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$2,890.00
168	First Baptist Church	Biloxi	\$2,851.00
169	New Harmony Baptist Church	Blue Springs	\$2,834.57
170	Salem Baptist Church	Raymond	\$2,833.30
171	New Hope Baptist Church	Gulport	\$2,813.12
172	Tylertown Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$2,810.00
173	First Baptist Church	Ripley	\$2,805.05
174	Calvary Baptist Church	Batesville	\$2,800.00
175	Macedonia Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$2,793.09
176	Oak Forest Baptist Church	Jackson	\$2,789.99
177	Beulah Baptist Church	Inverness	\$2,785.70
178	Whitesand Baptist Church	Prentiss	\$2,755.00
179	First Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$2,748.20
180	Chaparral Baptist Church	Carthage	\$2,685.00
181	First Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$2,679.76
182	First Baptist Church	Isola	\$2,675.16
183	Sallis Baptist Church	Sallis	\$2,671.00
184	Oak Hill Baptist Church	Booneville	\$2,663.43
185	Holly Baptist Church	Golden	\$2,652.02
186	Berea Baptist Church	McCool	\$2,649.12
187	Arm Baptist Church	Silver Creek	\$2,630.52
188	Oakland Baptist Church	Corinth	\$2,607.92
189	Ellison Baptist Church	Lou-rville	\$2,607.05
190	Mount Nebo Baptist Church	Bay Springs	\$2,600.00
191	Midway Baptist Church	Jackson	\$2,575.00
192	Fellowship Baptist Church	Hernando	\$2,560.83
193	Maple Hill Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$2,500.00
194	Rutledge Baptist Church	Rutledge	\$2,500.00
195	Faith Baptist Church	Walnut	\$2,489.75
196	Calvary Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$2,470.50
197	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Shubuta	\$2,465.00
198	Mount Moriah Baptist Church	Bruce	\$2,450.00
199	New Hope Baptist Church	Sumrall	\$2,438.46
200	Silver Creek Baptist Church	McComb	\$2,421.97
201	Bethany Baptist Church	Prentiss	\$2,415.01
202	Union Baptist Church	Meridian	\$2,414.53
203	Crystal Ridge Baptist Church	Louisville	\$2,410.12
204	First Baptist Church	Okolona	\$2,409.00
205	Evergreen Baptist Church	Louisville	\$2,400.00
206	Michael Memorial Baptist Church	Gulport	\$2,385.00
207	Union Baptist Church	Picayune	\$2,370.50
208	Bethel Baptist Church	Poplarville	\$2,347.02
209	Main Street Baptist Church	Hattiesburg	\$2,339.00
210	New Bethel Baptist Church	Carrollton	\$2,331.33
211	Mantee Baptist Church	Mantee	\$2,325.00
212	Temple Baptist Church	Hattiesburg	\$2,325.00
213	Union Baptist Church	Sardis	\$2,319.68
214	Bethsaida Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$2,300.00
215	Chunkey Baptist Church	Chunkey	\$2,300.00
216	West Ripley Baptist Church	Ripley	\$2,297.75
217	Main Street Baptist Church	Goodman	\$2,280.00
218	Remus Baptist Church	Carthage	\$2,278.00
219	Macedonia Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$2,269.50
220	First Baptist Church	Winona	\$2,260.00
221	First Baptist Church	Coldwater	\$2,217.76
222	Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church	Meridian	\$2,217.38
223	Brewer Baptist Church	Shannon	\$2,213.00
224	Leaf River Baptist Church	Louin	\$2,209.00
225	Grace Memorial Baptist Church	Lucedale	\$2,200.00
226	Shady Grove Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$2,183.05
227	West Shady Grove Baptist Church	Hazlehurst	\$2,168.00
228	New Providence Baptist Church	Akerman	\$2,150.00
229	Providence Baptist Church	Hickman	\$2,150.00
230	First Baptist Church	Buckatunga	\$2,150.00
231	Cartersville Baptist Church	Petal	\$2,125.00
232	Ellistown Baptist Church	Blue Springs	\$2,115.00
233	Interstate Baptist Church	Shaw	\$2,114.26
234	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Quitman	\$2,113.77
235	Macedonia Baptist Church	Victoria	\$2,112.60
236	D'Lo Baptist Church	D'Lo	\$2,110.59
237	Mount Vernon Baptist Church	Newton	\$2,107.97
238	First Baptist Church	Amory	\$2,100.00
239	Fellowship Baptist Church	Enterprise	\$2,088.12
240	Bogue Chitto Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$2,081.00
241	First Baptist Church	Columbia	\$2,075.00
242	Beulah Baptist Church	Magee	\$2,072.69
243	Casey Creek Baptist Church	Baldwyn	\$2,069.00
244	Bethsaida Baptist Church	French Camp	\$2,067.41
245	First Baptist Church	Lumberton	\$2,052.35
246	Christ Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$2,050.24
247	French Camp Baptist Church	French Camp	\$2,041.82
248	First Baptist Church	Bruce	\$2,032.00
249	Magie's Creek Baptist Church	Jayess	\$2,022.00
250	Liberty Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$2,000.00
251	Tusculum Baptist Church	Booneville	\$2,000.00



252	Kolola Springs Baptist Church	Caledonia	\$2,000.00	395	Wellman Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$1,278.55
253	Short Creek Baptist Church	Shoat City	\$2,000.00	396	South Crossroads Baptist Church	Luka	\$1,254.00
254	Mount Pisgah Baptist Church	Carrollton	\$1,995.00	397	Midway Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,250.00
255	Arbor Grove Baptist Church	Houston	\$1,995.00	398	Quimiam Baptist Church	Quimiam	\$1,250.00
256	Salem Baptist Church	Collins	\$1,976.33	399	New Palestine Baptist Church	Picayune	\$1,250.00
257	Cedar Grove Baptist Church	Lena	\$1,955.62	400	Bogue Chitto Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$1,247.50
258	Providence Baptist Church	Hattiesburg	\$1,954.71	401	Camp Creek Baptist Church	Cuntown	\$1,238.97
259	Longview Heights Baptist Church	Oliver Branch	\$1,948.03	402	New Haven Baptist Church	Terry	\$1,220.00
260	Louis Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$1,940.00	403	Magnolia Baptist Church	Laurel	\$1,216.00
261	Macdonia Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$1,936.00	404	Second Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$1,215.06
262	Calvary Baptist Church	Corinth	\$1,934.27	405	Calvary West Point Baptist Church	West Point	\$1,215.00
263	Eastside Baptist Church	Pearl	\$1,925.00	406	Acts Baptist Church	Raleigh	\$1,200.00
264	Pine Grove Baptist Church	Picayune	\$1,917.00	407	Broadway Baptist Church	Southaven	\$1,200.00
265	Wyatt Baptist Church	Senatobia	\$1,899.43	408	Sharkey-Isaquena Baptist Association	Valley Park	\$1,200.00
266	Wheeler Grove Baptist Church	Corinth	\$1,897.81	409	Union Baptist Church	Nettleton	\$1,200.00
267	Shiloh Baptist Church	Big Creek	\$1,892.70	410	Ebenezer Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$1,200.00
268	North Carrollton Baptist Church	N Carrollton	\$1,877.45	411	Bethlehem Baptist Church	Benton	\$1,200.00
269	Morgan Chapel Baptist Church	Sturgis	\$1,876.78	412	Mount Carmel Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,200.00
270	Twin Lakes Baptist Church	Madison	\$1,860.00	413	County Line Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,200.00
271	Pope Baptist Church	Pope	\$1,855.00	414	Calvary Baptist Church	Quitman	\$1,200.00
272	Ethel Baptist Church	Ethel	\$1,854.57	415	Spring Hill Baptist Church	Waterford	\$1,200.00
273	Bethel Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$1,849.66	416	Salem Baptist Church	Potts Camp	\$1,200.00
274	Center Hill Baptist Church	Ecu	\$1,843.82	417	Immanuel Baptist Church	Magnolia	\$1,200.00
275	Alta Woods Baptist Church	Jackson	\$1,835.00	418	Roxie Baptist Church	Roxie	\$1,200.00
276	Woolmarket Baptist Church	Biloxi	\$1,826.16	419	Liberty Baptist Church	Forest	\$1,200.00
277	Crowder Baptist Church	Crowder	\$1,812.70	420	Hillcrest Baptist Church	New Albany	\$1,200.00
278	Shady Grove Baptist Church	Magee	\$1,812.00	421	New Black Jack Baptist Church	Union	\$1,200.00
279	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Taylorville	\$1,800.00	422	Heppibah Baptist Church	Shubuta	\$1,200.00
280	Glenfield Baptist Church	New Albany	\$1,800.00	423	Bethel Baptist Church	Liberty	\$1,200.00
281	Friendship Baptist Church	Sturgis	\$1,800.00	424	Bethel Baptist Church	Holcomb	\$1,200.00
282	Calvary Baptist Church	New Augusta	\$1,793.46	425	Tate Baptist Church	Corinth	\$1,199.00
283	Printiss Baptist Church	Prentiss	\$1,788.18	426	First Baptist Church	Wiggins	\$1,187.00
284	First Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$1,787.00	427	Success Baptist Church	Saucier	\$1,182.79
285	Shugulak Baptist Church	Shugulak	\$1,780.00	428	Crane Creek Baptist Church	Perkinston	\$1,178.22
286	Sturgis Baptist Church	Sturgis	\$1,770.45	429	Golden Central Baptist Church	Coden	\$1,171.00
287	West Jackson Street Church	Tupelo	\$1,750.00	430	Oldtown Baptist Church	Pittsboro	\$1,163.00
288	Good Hope Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,750.00	431	Liberty Baptist Church	Flintwood	\$1,163.00
289	Friendship West Baptist Church	Tutwiler	\$1,745.24	432	Parkview Baptist Church	Leland	\$1,160.00
290	Calvary Baptist Church	Newton	\$1,734.88	433	Border Springs Baptist Church	Caledonia	\$1,160.00
291	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,733.00	434	Perry Baptist Association	New Augusta	\$1,157.11
292	Union West Baptist Church	Oxford	\$1,729.00	435	Pleasant Home Baptist Church	Laurel	\$1,155.57
293	Temple Baptist Church	Myrtle	\$1,724.00	436	Sebastopol Baptist Church	Sebastopol	\$1,153.00
294	Desoto Hills Baptist Church	Southaven	\$1,702.39	437	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Laurel	\$1,153.00
295	Tuscola Baptist Church	Lena	\$1,700.00	438	First Baptist Church	Canton	\$1,150.00
296	Lebanon Baptist Church	Ripley	\$1,700.00	439	Bethany Baptist Church	Potts Camp	\$1,150.00
297	Heritage Baptist Church	Lucedale	\$1,696.66	440	Hillsboro Baptist Church	Hillsboro	\$1,145.00
298	Arkabutla Baptist Church	Arkabutla	\$1,690.40	441	Blaine Creek Baptist Church	Mathiston	\$1,143.50
299	Harmony Baptist Church	Louisville	\$1,687.20	442	Darlove Baptist Church	Hollandale	\$1,140.00
300	Furns Baptist Church	Pontotoc	\$1,686.45	443	Limestone Baptist Church	Nettleton	\$1,139.33
301	Standing Pine Baptist Church	Walnut Grove	\$1,685.06	444	Mount Olive Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,137.13
302	New Hope Baptist Church	Magee	\$1,680.00	445	Flat Top Unity Baptist Church	Picayune	\$1,136.81
303	Woodland Hills Baptist Church	Jackson	\$1,666.00	446	Immanuel Baptist Church	Cleveland	\$1,133.00
304	Corinth Baptist Church	Raleigh	\$1,665.00	447	Andrew Chapel Baptist Church	Brandon	\$1,130.00
305	Union Baptist Church	Roxie	\$1,661.92	448	First Baptist Church	Lexington	\$1,126.85
306	DeKalb Baptist Church	De Kalb	\$1,660.00	449	Cumberland Baptist Church	Mabel	\$1,125.00
307	Wesson Baptist Church	Wesson	\$1,658.80	450	Lowery Creek Baptist Church	Seminary	\$1,125.30
308	Attala Baptist Association	Kosciusko	\$1,650.00	451	Fellowship Baptist Church	Starkville	\$1,120.00
309	First Baptist Church	Terry	\$1,646.83	452	Cedar Grove Baptist Church	Columbia	\$1,120.00
310	Society Hill Baptist Church	Oak Vale	\$1,642.30	453	First Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$1,120.00
311	First Baptist Church	Cleveland	\$1,641.66	454	First Baptist Church	Rosedale	\$1,110.00
312	Kennedy Springs Baptist Church	Kennedy	\$1,636.99	455	Bond Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,110.00
313	Longview Baptist Church	Belden	\$1,631.00	456	Pine Hill Baptist Church	Enterprise	\$1,108.88
314	Navilla Baptist Church	McComb	\$1,628.43	457	Clifton Baptist Church	Forest	\$1,107.97
315	Siloam Baptist Church	Magee	\$1,613.02	458	New Home Baptist Church	Fulton	\$1,107.76
316	Leaf Baptist Church	McLain	\$1,600.00	459	Big Level Baptist Church	Wiggins	\$1,105.00
317	Clon Baptist Church	Macoon	\$1,600.00	460	Archieville Baptist Church	Hailehurst	\$1,104.60
318	Driver's Flat Baptist Church	Oxford	\$1,600.00	461	Galilee First Baptist Church	Gloster	\$1,104.00
319	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$1,594.33	462	First Baptist Church	Sattaria	\$1,102.85
320	Georgetown Baptist Church	Georgetown	\$1,592.51	463	Rome Baptist Church	Bassfield	\$1,100.00
321	Beulah Baptist Church	Decatur	\$1,590.10	464	Rome Baptist Church	Rome	\$1,100.00
322	Mount Olive Baptist Church	Smithdale	\$1,587.00	465	Waynesboro Baptist Church	Nernando	\$1,100.00
323	Good Hope Baptist Church	Richton	\$1,569.75	466	Olof First Baptist Church	Sumrill	\$1,100.00
324	Cornerstone Baptist Church	Batesville	\$1,553.17	467	Fairfield Baptist Church	Moselle	\$1,094.66
325	Gatesville Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,559.03	468	Airport Baptist Church	Grenada	\$1,092.97
326	First Baptist Church	Ellisville	\$1,550.00	469	Pittsboro Baptist Church	Pittsboro	\$1,088.54
327	McCool Baptist Church	McCool	\$1,544.71	470	Concord Baptist Church	Yazoo City	\$1,086.75
328	Wayne Baptist Association	Waynesboro	\$1,539.75	471	Brooksville Baptist Church	Brooksville	\$1,084.42
329	Mount Horeb Baptist Church	Collins	\$1,530.55	472	Gore Springs Baptist Church	Gore Springs	\$1,084.00
330	Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church	Dumas	\$1,527.45	473	Taylor Baptist Church	Taylor	\$1,083.20
331	Morrison Chapel Baptist Church	Cleveland	\$1,520.00	474	First Baptist Church	Leakesville	\$1,075.00
332	Harrisburg Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$1,520.00	475	County Line Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,073.00
333	Spring Hill Baptist Church	Oakland	\$1,505.00	476	Brush Creek Baptist Church	Corinth	\$1,066.83
334	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church	Houka	\$1,504.70	477	Bethlehem Baptist Church	Walnut	\$1,066.70
335	First Baptist Church	Brooklyn	\$1,501.18	478	First Baptist Church	Collinsville	\$1,061.50
336	Good Hope Baptist Church	Louisville	\$1,500.00	479	Beatrice Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,060.00
337	Trinity Baptist Church	Fulton	\$1,500.00	480	Union Hill Baptist Church	De Kalb	\$1,056.00
338	Corinth Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,500.00	481	Highland Baptist Church	Jackson	\$1,055.63
339	West McComb Baptist Church	McComb	\$1,500.00	482	First Baptist Church	Durant	\$1,055.00
340	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Mount Olive	\$1,500.00	483	Northside Baptist Church	Lucedale	\$1,046.69
341	Concord Baptist Church	Macoon	\$1,500.00	484	Cliff Temple Baptist Church	Natchez	\$1,040.25
342	Roushway Baptist Church	Siddonsville	\$1,500.00	485	Port Gibson Baptist Church	Port Gibson	\$1,040.00
343	Crystal Springs Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$1,500.00	486	Causeville Baptist Church	Meridian	\$1,039.04
344	Hebron Baptist Church	Meridian	\$1,498.00	487	Holly Springs Baptist Church	Foxworth	\$1,037.57
345	Scobba Baptist Church	Scobba	\$1,482.00	488	Skene Baptist Church	Skene	\$1,037.00
346	Gum Grove Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,475.80	489	Liberty Baptist Church	Noxapater	\$1,036.06
347	Imperial Baptist Church	Columbia	\$1,467.43	490	Heuc's Retreat Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,035.00
348	Gallman Baptist Church	Gallman	\$1,460.98	491	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$1,022.23
349	Goodyear Baptist Church	Picayune	\$1,457.50	492	Oak Dale Baptist Church	Pontotoc	\$1,011.41
350	Central Baptist Church	McComb	\$1,456.00	493	Autumn Ridge Baptist Church	Hattiesburg	\$1,000.00
351	First Baptist Church	Coileville	\$1,445.00	494	Jones Chapel Baptist Church	Nettleton	\$1,000.00
352	New Salem Baptist Church	Columbus	\$1,442.64	495	Dry Creek Baptist Church	Baldwyn	\$1,000.00
353	Friendship Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,440.00	496	Conway Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,000.00
354	Carriage Hills Baptist Church	Southaven	\$1,439.32	497	Ecu Baptist Church	Ecu	\$1,000.00
355	Scotland Baptist Church	Winona	\$1,439.19	498	First Baptist Church, Polkville	Morton	\$1,000.00
356	Highland Baptist Church	Senatobia	\$1,430.94	499	First Baptist Church	St. Louis	\$1,000.00
357	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Woodland	\$1,425.00	500	Crape Creek Baptist Church	Morton	\$1,000.00
358	New Prospect Baptist Church	Luka	\$1,415.00	501	New Liberty Baptist Church	Saltillo	\$1,000.00
359	Morgantown Baptist Church	Natchez	\$1,409.69	502	Birmingham Ridge Baptist Church	Liberty	\$1,000.00
360	First Baptist Church	Calhoun City	\$1,409.00	503	Enterprise Baptist Church	Columbus	\$1,000.00
361	Moak's Creek Baptist Church	Surmit	\$1,406.00	504	First Baptist Church		
362	Union Baptist Church	Mize	\$1,400.10				
363	First Baptist Church	Flora	\$1,400.00				
364	First Baptist Church	Purvis	\$1,400.00				
365	Pheba Baptist Church	Pheba	\$1,400.00				
366	Oak Hill Baptist Church	Pontotoc	\$1,400.00				
367	New Hope Baptist Church	Foxworth	\$1,395.00				
368	Bethel Baptist Church	Etta	\$1,394.39				
369	Myrick Baptist Church	Laurel	\$1,392.34				
370	First Baptist Church	Itta Bena	\$1,390.00				
371	Macedonia Baptist Church	Myrtle	\$1,387.81				
372	Melrose Baptist Church	Bentonia	\$1,385.00				
373	Steep Hollow Baptist Church	Poplarville	\$1,383.97				
374	West Corinth Baptist Church	Corinth	\$1,375.00				
375	Ridgecrest Baptist Church	Madison	\$1,373.81				
376	Oakland Baptist Church	Walnut	\$1,369.40				
377	Hopewell Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,366.85				
378	West Union Baptist Church	Carriere	\$1,351.11				
379	North Oxford Baptist Church	Oxford	\$1,340.00				
380	Cedar Grove Baptist Church	Leakesville	\$1,338.00				
381	New Hope Baptist Church	Starkville	\$1,326.19				
382	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church	Eupora	\$1,325.00				
383	East Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Quitman	\$1,315.00				
384	Siloam Baptist Church	Meadville	\$1,312.50				
385	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Florence	\$1,300.00				
386	Easthaven Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,300.00				
387	New Providence Baptist Church	Vardaman	\$1,300.00				
388	Survive Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,300.00				
389	First Baptist Church	Louise	\$1,300.00				
390	Hathorn Baptist Church	Columbia	\$1,297.80				
391	First Baptist Church	Richton	\$1,292.00				
392	Arlington Heights Baptist Church	Pascagoula	\$1,285.00				
393	Faith Church Baptist Church	Oliver Branch	\$1,282.06				
394	Barton First Baptist Church	Byhalia	\$1,281.00				

## THANK YOU

Thank you for believing in our mission to protect, nurture and restore children and families through Christ-centered services. We greatly appreciate your financial support and are committed to being good stewards of your gifts.

*Rory Lee*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Fed wrongly penalizing non-terrorists, group says

## Claim accuses government of unjustly punishing refugees

WASHINGTON (BP)—The Obama administration's continued inaction has stranded thousands of peaceful refugees in bureaucratic limbo by wrongly labeling them as terrorists, says a coalition of religious and human rights organizations.

The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville was one of the groups represented on a recent Washington panel that again urged the White House to implement reforms called for in a 2007 law.

The measure was designed to correct unintentional results for refugees and asylum seekers produced by anti-terrorism laws passed after the 2001 suicide attacks on the United States.

The failure by the executive branch to apply those procedures has meant more than 4,000 people who already have qualified as refugees, or

are proceeding through the asylum process, are categorized as terrorists even though they are living peacefully in this country.

"We are grateful that our country has done as well as it has on admitting people to this country on refugee or asylum basis, and yet at the same time, it's clear that when it comes to this particular subject that we can do better."

—Barrett Duke  
vice president for public  
policy and research  
Southern Baptist Ethics &  
Religious Liberty  
Commission

The problem also has placed an unknown number of refugees in dangerous conditions overseas and/or separated them from their families, according to the coalition, which also made the appeal in 2010.

The federal law's overly broad definitions of "terrorist organizations" and "material support" to such groups, and the wide-ranging interpretations by the administration, have ensnared many non-terrorists seeking to live in this country.

Refugees have been categorized as terrorists even if they supported pro-democracy efforts or groups that fought under the direction of the United States.

While coalition members believe changes are needed in federal law, they say the executive branch could solve many

of the problems by applying the congressional reforms in place. Barnett Duke, the ERLC's vice president for public policy and research, told the audience at the Jan. 23 panel discussion the coalition is not urging the government "to drop the bar altogether" on examining people entering the United States.

"We are grateful that our country has done as well as it has on admitting people to this country on refugee or asylum basis," he said, "and yet at the same time, it's clear that when it comes to this particular subject that we can do better."

Duke said the "terrorism-related inadmissibility grounds," or TRIG as they are known, are "unevenly applied and insensitive to the realities of life for many of these people." TRIG is insensitive, he said, in the following ways:

• **Spiritual grounds.** "It certainly has the potential to, and probably is currently, punishing people who take their citizenship seriously, their commitment to the Lord seriously," Duke said.

He cited verses in Matthew in which Jesus commanded His disciples to meet needs and to do more than what is required. The person who acts in obedience to Christ's commands by providing such "material support" as food or water to someone who turns out to be a member of a terrorist group or to someone who is related to a terrorist — and tells the truth about it — could be labeled a terrorist by the U.S. government.

"The way this is currently being done, it certainly punishes people who are simply try-

ing to faithfully live out their religious beliefs," he said.

• **Social grounds.** The system "is actually weakening families... actually directly affecting how children grow up and the relationships between husbands and wives," Duke said. "That is certainly not good for anyone. Societies are stronger when families are strong."

• **Common-sense grounds.** The rules don't appear to take into consideration intent, level of support or the type of regime opposed," he said. "Somehow some common sense needs to be injected into the system. ...[T]his current bar is even being used to deny asylum to victims of terrorist extortion in Nepal and even against women who are raped and enslaved by militias in Liberia."

• **Practical grounds.** The refugee or asylum process "exposes someone to such a degree of scrutiny that this is the least likely way that somebody is going to use to try to enter this country to do harm," Duke said.

One of the panelists, Julie Hysenaj, explained the devastating consequences of the system for her family. She has been separated from her husband Arben for more than four years after an immigration judge rejected his application for asylum.

When he left the country on the advice of a lawyer, he was denied a visa to return on the basis of his service for two months in the Kosovo Liberation Army, which was supported by the U.S.

"Arben is not a terrorist," his tearful wife said. "He is not a threat to anybody. He is hard-working, honest, caring, dependable. I miss him so much."

Melanie Nezer, senior director of U.S. policy and advocacy for the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, said at the briefing the policies in question are not helping the war against terrorism.

"In terms of this being a tool to protect the country from terrorists, I don't think anyone could say it's an effective tool," she said. "It probably diverts a lot of resources that could be otherwise used in a better way."

The coalition also made similar appeals to the Obama administration in late 2010. Coalition members sent a letter to Obama in October calling on him to order the full implementation of the 2007 law's reforms within a 45-day compliance period.

Among the 27 coalition signers of the appeal was ERLC President Richard Land. A briefing in which participants repeated their calls for change was held in December of the same year.

Also speaking at the panel discussion were Anwen Hughes, senior counsel at Human Rights First, and Steven Schulman, who leads pro bono (donated) work globally for the Akin Gump law firm.

Duke has written a commentary that explains at more length his concerns on the issue that may be found at the ERLC's website at <http://erlc.com/article/the-trouble-with-trig/>.

## N.Y.C. school/church conflict may be settled by state, governor

NEW YORK (BP and local reports) — A New York State Senate committee has stepped in on behalf of churches that soon will not be allowed to meet in public schools in New York City.

Sponsored by assistant Senate Majority Whip Martin J. Golden, the bill would "prevent school districts from excluding groups from meeting on school property because of the religious content or viewpoint of their speech, including allowing religious worship services."

"I salute the New York State Senate Education Committee on taking bold and decisive action on this important issue," said New York City Councilman Fernando Cabrera, who urged state legislators to address the matter. "I am confident the Assembly will follow suit, and urge Gov. Cuomo to sign the legislation when it reaches his desk."

Republicans control the New York State Senate. Democrats control the New York State Assembly, the equivalent of the Mississippi House of Representatives.

If S6087A, approved by the committee Jan. 24, does not pass, New York

City would become the first major city nationwide to ban churches from meeting in public schools. In December, the New York Department of Education told about 60 churches they have until Feb. 12 to find alternative meeting spaces.

Several peaceful demonstrations protesting the policy have taken place. Cabrera, who also is a pastor, was one of several people arrested for a show of civil disobedience earlier in January.

Ray Parascando, pastor of Crossroads Church in Staten Island, N.Y., which has met in a public school for four years, commended the Senate committee for moving the bill forward.

"It shows that it's not isolated to churches and pastors that think this is unconstitutional," Parascando told Baptist Press. "It shows that local elected leaders, regardless of their spiritual affiliations, think this is unfair."

"This is picking up steam. There are a number of local and now regional politicians within the five boroughs that are stepping up to the plate and making phone calls and putting their names on bills," Parascando said.

"I think there's a strong possibility that this could get overturned and at the very least an extension will be given."

The bill says groups should be allowed to gather in schools "even in the event that such meetings include religious content or views in their speech, so long as these meetings are open to the general public."

Crossroads Church has painted 16 schools in all five boroughs of New York City as part of a Southern Baptist initiative called Paint the Town. Parascando said even if Crossroads Church is prevented from meeting in Public School 52, the church will continue to support the schools.

"Knowing all of this, we will still paint the schools this summer because we care about the children, we care about the faculty, we care about the

"Ultimately, it's great that all these local leaders are behind it, and I commend them, but the church still needs to be praying hard for this."

—Ray Parascando  
pastor  
Crossroads Church  
Staten Island, N.Y.

Department of Education and what they're about," Parascando said, "so even though we don't agree with a lot of their decisions, especially this regulation, we still want to minister in the love of Jesus Christ by serving."

Parascando expressed gratitude for the prayer support Crossroads Church and other churches in New York City have received from people throughout the nation.

"We received some encouraging emails, and that stuff goes a long way," he said. "I think one of the purposes that God has for this situation is it gives us an opportunity to reach out for prayer more, and that never hurts."

"Ultimately, it's great that all these local leaders are behind it, and I commend them, but the church still needs to be praying hard for this."